

House Approves \$5.1 Million in Childers' Agriculture Appropriations Requests in Final Bill

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Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$5.1 million in appropriations requests submitted by Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) through passage of the final version of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. The legislation allocates important funding to protect public health, invest in rural communities, and support agriculture research.

"I am extremely pleased that this important funding has been included in the final legislation," said Congressman Childers. "The agriculture industry is a vital contributor to our economy, and it's essential that rural communities have the resources they need to spur economic growth during today's tough times. With this legislation, North Mississippi will be able to implement important agriculture research projects, improve public health, and promote economic development throughout the region."

Below are descriptions of the funding requests submitted by Congressman Childers and approved by the House in final legislation:

- **\$1,608,000 – Dietary Supplements Research, National Center for Natural Products.** The National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) works closely with the FDA/CFSAN to conduct research on biological and chemical properties of plants used in dietary supplements, in order to ensure the quality and safety of these products. This project continues NCNPR's collaboration with FDA/CFSAN to develop the science base for ensuring the authenticity, quality and safety of botanicals sold as dietary supplements in the US.

- **\$3,497,000 – National Center for Natural Products Phase II Construction.** The NCNPR has established a premier program of research in discovery of new natural products and in understanding how they may be useful as new drugs or agrochemicals. To optimally achieve this vision of a premier, world-class natural products research organization, the center

is pursuing an expansion of its current facility to a second phase. Phase II will provide capabilities for extension of Phase I discovery operations into the drug development stages. Phase II will allow enhanced capabilities for analog development, scaling up isolation and synthesis, analytical chemistry, characterizing mechanism of action, toxicology, animal efficacy studies, and development of a regulatory agency (FDA, EPA).

The Agriculture Appropriations Bill also includes funding for the following:

- **Rural Development** through USDA programs important to rural communities, including rural housing, water projects, community facilities, and economic development efforts.
- **Dairy Assistance** for the nation's dairy farmers who are struggling due to historically low prices.
- **Child Nutrition Programs** to provide nutritious meals and snacks to over 32 million children in schools, child care institutions, adult day care centers, and after school care programs.
- **Agriculture Research** carried out by USDA research agencies, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Some of the funding directed to ARS will go towards research project at the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University.
- **Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund** to support farm operating, ownership, and conservation loans.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov

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